

Law, Department of

Mission

The Department of Law is responsible for protecting the legal rights of New York State and its citizens by representing the State in litigation and in other legal affairs.

In implementing its constitutional responsibilities, the Department performs a wide range of functions including prosecuting or defending actions and proceedings for or against the State and its departments; prosecuting certain criminal violations of the Labor, Workers' Compensation, and Unemployment Insurance laws; investigating and prosecuting other criminal cases at the request of the Governor or the commissioners of State departments; investigating the activities of organized crime; bringing civil and/or criminal actions against polluters, violators of antitrust laws, and those who defraud consumers or investors; mediating consumer complaints; and investigating and prosecuting cases of Medicaid fraud.

Organization and Staffing

The legal functions and administrative functions of the Department of Law are divided into eight major divisions: Administration, Appeals and Opinions, Counsel for the State, Criminal Justice, Economic Justice, Investigations, Social Justice, and Regional Offices. Each division consists of smaller bureaus or specialized units dealing with specific issues.

The Department's main offices are located in Albany and New York City, with regional offices in Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Binghamton, Utica, Watertown, Plattsburgh, Poughkeepsie, White Plains, Harlem, Brooklyn, Mineola, and Hauppauge.

Budget Highlights

The FY 2024 Executive Budget recommends \$345.2 million in all funds appropriated for the Department of Law. This represents an \$18.1 million all funds increase from the previous year attributed to new capital for IT modernization projects, general salary and inflationary increases, and funding to support new criminal and social justice initiatives. The Department of Law has a workforce of 1,903 FTEs, an increase of 39 FTEs over the previous fiscal year.

Program Highlights

Administration Division

Provides budget, finance, personnel, operations, and technology services for the agency.

Division of Appeals and Opinions

Handles appellate litigation in both State and Federal courts. The Division also prepares opinions, both formal and informal, interpreting State laws for State agencies and municipalities.

Criminal Justice Division

Investigates and prosecutes criminal cases, including those involving Medicaid fraud, auto insurance fraud, white collar and organized crime cases involving multi-county, multi-state and even multi-national criminal activities occurring within New York State.

Investigations Division

Provides investigative support for legal divisions throughout the Department, and works cooperatively with State, local and Federal law enforcement agencies on cases that cross jurisdictional lines.

Division of State Counsel

Provides State agencies, the Governor, other State officials, and the Legislature with counsel and representation in legal proceedings. It recoups non-tax revenue on behalf of State taxpayers and provides legal assistance to State agencies in connection with the acquisition and disposition of public land.

Division of Economic Justice

Defends and protects the public interest in the courts. It enforces laws to prevent restraint of trade, protects consumers from fraudulent and/or deceptive business practices, regulates the sale of securities, and addresses people's concerns about criminal online activities.

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Division of Social Justice

Defends and protects the public interest in the courts. It ensures compliance with the State’s health care and environmental laws, enforces State Labor and Workers’ Compensation Laws, protects charitable donors and beneficiaries, and enforces laws prohibiting discrimination.

Regional Offices Division

Provides satellite offices across the State to ensure that all New York agencies have cost-effective representation in all local, State and Federal courts, and that citizens have full access to the programs and services of the Department.

**ALL FUNDS
APPROPRIATIONS
(dollars)**

Category	Available FY 2023	Appropriations Recommended FY 2024	Change From FY 2023	Reappropriations Recommended FY 2024
State Operations	320,605,993	342,426,000	21,820,007	50,176,000
Aid To Localities	0	0	0	1,398,000
Capital Projects	6,500,000	2,750,000	(3,750,000)	9,373,000
Total	327,105,993	345,176,000	18,070,007	60,947,000

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ALL FUND TYPES
PROJECTED LEVELS OF EMPLOYMENT BY PROGRAM
FILLED ANNUAL SALARIED POSITIONS

Program	FY 2023 Estimated FTEs 03/31/23	FY 2024 Estimated FTEs 03/31/24	FTE Change
Administration			
General Fund	185	185	0
Appeals and Opinions			
General Fund	48	48	0
Cannabis Management			
General Fund	0	15	15
Counsel for the State			
General Fund	358	358	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	114	114	0
Internal Service Funds	88	88	0
Criminal Investigations			
General Fund	145	145	0
Economic Justice			
General Fund	1	1	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	121	121	0
Social Justice			
General Fund	74	95	21
Special Revenue Funds - Other	84	84	0
Capital Projects Funds - Other	3	3	0
Criminal Justice			
General Fund	140	140	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	52	52	0
Medicaid Fraud Control			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	201	201	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	83	83	0
Regional Offices			
General Fund	167	170	3
Total	1,864	1,903	39

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STATE OPERATIONS
ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY FUND TYPE
APPROPRIATIONS
(dollars)

Fund Type	Available FY 2023	Recommended FY 2024	Change
General Fund	139,902,678	152,884,000	12,981,322
Internal Service Funds	17,552,411	17,391,000	(161,411)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	46,874,913	50,186,000	3,311,087
Special Revenue Funds - Other	116,275,991	121,965,000	5,689,009
Total	320,605,993	342,426,000	21,820,007
Adjustments:			
Transfer(s) From			
Special Pay Bill			
General Fund	(11,993,993)		
Appropriated FY 2023	308,612,000		

STATE OPERATIONS
ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM
APPROPRIATIONS
(dollars)

Program	Available FY 2023	Recommended FY 2024	Change
Administration			
General Fund	26,645,000	23,580,000	(3,065,000)
Appeals and Opinions			
General Fund	9,873,426	10,503,000	629,574
Cannabis Management			
General Fund	0	2,760,000	2,760,000
Counsel for the State			
General Fund	42,228,075	42,492,000	263,925
Internal Service Funds	17,552,411	17,391,000	(161,411)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	30,635,952	30,133,000	(502,952)
Criminal Investigations			
General Fund	14,873,137	15,157,000	283,863
Criminal Justice			
General Fund	17,092,792	18,454,000	1,361,208
Special Revenue Funds - Other	1,372,000	1,372,000	0
Economic Justice			
General Fund	155,000	161,000	6,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	38,286,172	40,230,000	1,943,828
Medicaid Fraud Control			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	46,874,913	50,186,000	3,311,087
Special Revenue Funds - Other	15,923,913	16,728,000	804,087
Regional Offices			
General Fund	19,307,145	25,453,000	6,145,855
Social Justice			
General Fund	9,728,103	14,324,000	4,595,897
Special Revenue Funds - Other	30,057,954	33,502,000	3,444,046

Total	320,605,993	342,426,000	21,820,007
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**STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND
SUMMARY OF PERSONAL SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES
FY 2024 RECOMMENDED
(dollars)**

Program	Total		Personal Service Regular (Annual Salaried)	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	19,730,000	(5,748,000)	19,526,000	(5,755,000)
Appeals and Opinions	9,410,000	579,574	9,382,000	578,574
Cannabis Management	2,200,000	2,200,000	2,200,000	2,200,000
Counsel for the State	38,580,000	263,925	38,497,000	260,925
Criminal Investigations	14,781,000	283,863	14,161,000	259,863
Criminal Justice	15,332,000	965,208	15,274,000	963,208
Economic Justice	161,000	6,000	0	0
Regional Offices	20,879,000	4,749,855	20,117,000	4,720,855
Social Justice	10,324,000	3,473,897	10,286,000	3,466,897
Total	131,397,000	6,774,322	129,443,000	6,695,322

Program	Temporary Service (Nonannual Salaried)		Holiday/Overtime Pay	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	166,000	6,000	38,000	1,000
Appeals and Opinions	27,000	1,000	1,000	0
Counsel for the State	81,000	3,000	2,000	0
Criminal Investigations	0	0	620,000	24,000
Criminal Justice	0	0	58,000	2,000
Economic Justice	161,000	6,000	0	0
Regional Offices	760,000	29,000	2,000	0
Social Justice	6,000	6,000	32,000	1,000
Total	1,201,000	51,000	753,000	28,000

NYS DOB | FY 2024 Executive Budget | Agency Appropriations
STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND
SUMMARY OF NONPERSONAL SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE UNDISTRIBUTED
APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES
FY 2024 RECOMMENDED
(dollars)

Program	Total		Supplies and Materials	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	3,850,000	2,683,000	775,000	0
Appeals and Opinions	1,093,000	50,000	439,000	50,000
Cannabis Management	560,000	560,000	0	0
Counsel for the State	3,912,000	0	1,000	0
Criminal Investigations	376,000	0	12,000	0
Criminal Justice	3,122,000	396,000	106,000	26,000
Regional Offices	4,574,000	1,396,000	142,000	140,000
Social Justice	4,000,000	1,122,000	91,000	46,000
Total	21,487,000	6,207,000	1,566,000	262,000

Program	Travel		Contractual Services	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	107,000	0	1,968,000	1,683,000
Appeals and Opinions	20,000	0	634,000	0
Cannabis Management	0	0	560,000	560,000
Counsel for the State	0	0	3,911,000	0
Criminal Investigations	94,000	0	270,000	0
Criminal Justice	137,000	13,000	2,401,000	357,000
Regional Offices	100,000	0	4,332,000	1,256,000
Social Justice	100,000	93,000	3,687,000	881,000
Total	558,000	106,000	17,763,000	4,737,000

Program	Equipment	
	Amount	Change
Administration	1,000,000	1,000,000
Criminal Justice	478,000	0
Social Justice	122,000	102,000
Total	1,600,000	1,102,000

NYS DOB | FY 2024 Executive Budget | Agency Appropriations
STATE OPERATIONS - OTHER THAN GENERAL FUND
SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES
FY 2024 RECOMMENDED
(dollars)

Program	Total		Personal Service	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Counsel for the State	47,524,000	(664,363)	9,693,000	(4,507,068)
Criminal Justice	1,372,000	0	0	0
Economic Justice	40,230,000	1,943,828	17,584,000	(250,316)
Medicaid Fraud Control	66,914,000	4,115,174	31,468,000	484,684
Social Justice	33,502,000	3,444,046	16,401,000	545,273
Total	189,542,000	8,838,685	75,146,000	(3,727,427)

Program	Nonpersonal Service	
	Amount	Change
Counsel for the State	37,831,000	3,842,705
Criminal Justice	1,372,000	0
Economic Justice	22,646,000	2,194,144
Medicaid Fraud Control	35,446,000	3,630,490
Social Justice	17,101,000	2,898,773
Total	114,396,000	12,566,112

CAPITAL PROJECTS
ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM
APPROPRIATIONS
(dollars)

Comprehensive Construction Program	Available FY 2023	Recommended FY 2024	Change	Reappropriations FY 2024
IT Initiative Program				
Capital Projects Fund - Authority Bonds	6,500,000	2,750,000	(3,750,000)	9,373,000
Total	6,500,000	2,750,000	(3,750,000)	9,373,000

Note: Most recent estimates as of 02/01/2023